



THE GRAND CIRCLE: ATLAS & SAHARA ODYSSEY

14 Days | 759km | 5,530m Vertical Gain | The Counter-Clockwise Epic

Presented by Argan Sports

THE JOURNEY

This is our definitive Moroccan expedition—a 14-day masterclass in diversity that bridges the snow-capped High Atlas and the rolling, golden dunes of the Sahara. Moving in a counter-clockwise loop, you will ride over 700 KM climb over **5,500 vertical meters**, crossing legendary mountain passes, volcanic moonscapes, and lush river oases. The crown jewel of this odyssey is a deep-desert immersion, where we trade the saddle for a **4x4 Jeep excursion** into the heart of the dunes for an unforgettable night at a **Luxury Desert Camp** under the Saharan stars. This is designed for the explorer who wants to leave the red dust of Morocco permanently in their tires.

THE DAILY ODYSSEY

Day 1: The Red City Rendezvous (Marrakech)

Touch down in Marrakech, where the air is a heavy blend of cedarwood and cumin. You will be picked up by AXS and transported to our AXS bike shop for bike fitting and a review of the route with our expert guides. Spend your afternoon winding through the labyrinthine alleys of the Medina as the call to prayer echoes over the Jemaa el-Fnaa. Your first sanctuary night is in a local riad. Get steeped in the Marrakech vibe which is deeply ingrained in the culture for thousands of years. Step up on the roof top and see a panoramic view and if it is clear you will see the High Atlas peaks that await you tomorrow. A final night of luxury before the rugged miles begin.





Day 2: The Agafay Entry (Marrakech to Ourigane)

The frantic pulse of the city gradually fades behind you as you enter the rolling white-stone hills of the Agafay Desert. This **70km** introductory stage features **50% gravel** as you navigate the Lalla Takerkoust reservoir tracks over roughly to Ourgane in roughly **5 hours**. When you arrive in Ourgane you will be greeted with family hospitality, the hotels catch phrase is “welcome to your home”. The family will prepare dinner while you can take a walk by the blue lake adjacent to the hotel, get ready for a hearty breakfast to fuel your journey.



Day 3: The Forested Ascent (Ourigane to Tizi-N-Test Summit)

As you gain altitude, the heat of the plains is replaced by the fragrant pine forests and juniper trees of the High Atlas. Over **6.0 hours**, you will climb **450m** and cover **75km**, passing the 12th-century Tinmel Mosque. Your hotel is perched exactly at the 2,100m Test Summit, where you will dine and sleep above the clouds.



Day 4: The Gravity Day (Tizi-n-Test Summit to Oulad Berhil)

Experience a massive 40km "gravity" descent from the peaks into the golden warmth of the Souss Valley. This is a relaxed **45km** stage on **100% road**, allowing for a **4-hour** flow as you drop into a landscape of Argan trees. You will spend the night in a former palace of peacocks and hidden courtyards that feels like a desert mirage.

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Day 5: The Saffron Heartland (Oulad Berhil to Taliouine)

Leave the plains for a steady, rhythmic climb into the heart of the Anti-Atlas. This **65km** road stage takes **6 hours**, gaining **800m** as the landscape turns purple and gold. We have arranged a small family run hotel here in the Saffron Heartland with local spices and in the town where women weave intricate saffron-dyed carpets.



Day 6: The Weavers' Plateau (Taliouine to Tazenakht)

Push further across the high arid plateaus for **84km**, navigating a **30% gravel** mix that includes the scenic Anzal Piste bypass. Over **7 hours**, you will gain **600m** before arriving in Tazenakht. You will find refuge at a simple hotel in the center of the town, the perfect spot to rest and enjoy a hearty meal before the long trek toward the desert oases.

Day 7: The Draa Oasis Descent (Tazenakht to Agdz)

You should start early as you face a hard **86km** stage, climbing **880m** to summit the Tizi n'Taguergoust pass. Once you summit you are in for an amazing sprawling view of the Draa Valley. The ride today will be about **7 hours**. The second half of the day will descend into a continuous canopy of green. We have chosen a special hotel in Agdz, a boutique haven where the garden is filled with songbirds and dinner is served in a lush palm grove.





Day 8: The Left Bank Oasis Trail (Agdz-Zagora)

Follow the Draa River south, opting for the **70% gravel** tracks of the "Left Bank" palm groves. This is "Oasis Hopping" through a labyrinth of narrow tracks, under palm trees and ancient mud villages over **7 hours**. Arrive in Zagora at our chosen hotel, where you'll find salvation in a turquoise pool shaded by date palms.

Day 9: The Sahara Jeep Excursion & Dune Camp (Zagora to the Desert Camp)

Today, the bikes take a rest as we trade the saddle for a **private 4x4 excursion into the deep Sahara**. You will traverse the rugged hamada to reach the towering sand dunes and reach our favorite desert camp. Tonight, there is no Wi-Fi and no traffic—just a traditional campfire dinner and a night spent under a canopy of a thousand stars.



Day 10: The Stony Hamada (Zagora to Ait ben Haddou)

Waking to a sunrise in the dunes, you are shuttled back to Zagora to navigate the "Back-door" tracks across the stony Hamada plains. This **85km** stage features **40% gravel** over **7 hours**, gaining **600m**. Your home tonight adjacent to the runs, where you can watch the moonlight hit the mud-brick towers of Ait Benhaddou from your balcony.

Day 11: The Ounila Canyon (Ait ben Haddou to Taddert)

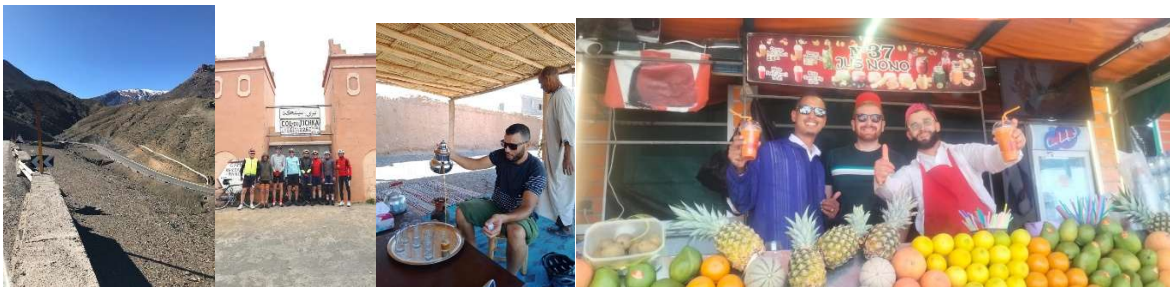
Prepare for a hard **86km** stage through the secret Ounila Valley. Spend **7 hours** navigating **40% gravel** ribbons through salt-streaked canyons. You will climb **950m** to reach our chosen hotel in Taddert, a cozy, stone-walled haven where a steaming tagine serves as the ultimate cyclist's fuel.





Day 12: The Victory Descent (Taddert to Marrakech)

Your final long descent from the Tichka summit leads you back toward the plains of the Red City. This **78km** stage on **100% road** takes **6 hours**, gaining **400m** as the mountain air is replaced by the warmth of Marrakech. Return our Marrakech Riad to toast your journey with mint tea as the sun sets over the Koutoubia Mosque.



Day 13: The Farewell

A final day for assembly and gear checks or exploring the Medina one last time. Enjoy a farewell dinner at the Riad as you reflect on the diverse landscapes of the Atlas and Sahara. Overnight our Marrakech Riad

Day 14: Departure

A final breakfast in the courtyard before your transfer to RAK airport. Your bike is packed and your legs are tired, but your soul is full of the Atlas.

THE ARGAN SPORTS SYSTEM

What is Included:

- **Accommodation:** 13 nights in our curated sanctuaries (Riads, Kasbahs, and a Luxury Desert Camp).

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- **Meals:** 13 breakfasts and 13 dinners. Evening meals include water and traditional Moroccan tea.
- **The Machine:** Rental of a **Giant Revolt 2** gravel bike, professionally fitted.
- **Logistics:** All airport transfers, 4x4 Jeep excursion to the Sahara camp, and the return desert shuttle.
- **Support:** Expert GPS navigation files and 24/7 WhatsApp Concierge.

Available Upgrades & Options:

- **Performance Upgrade:** Upgrade to the **Giant Revolt Advanced** carbon frame for **€10 per day** (subject to availability).
- **Bikepacking Gear:** Professional rack setup for **€10** and waterproof panniers for **€40** for the duration of the trip.
- **Souvenir Hydration:** Argan Sports branded small backpacks with hydration bladders are available for **€40**—yours to keep as a memento of the journey.

What is Not Included:

- **Lunch:** To give you total freedom to stop at local villages or scenic viewpoints, lunch is not covered.
- **Alcoholic Beverages:** Where available at our partner hotels, alcoholic drinks are extra.
- **Hydration:** Please bring your own **bidons (water bottles)** to use with the bikes.

INVESTMENT

- **Shared Room:** €2,495 per person
- **Single Room:** €2,795 per person
- **Coordination:** Please share your flight details via WhatsApp so we can synchronize your private Saturday pickup and Sunday drop-off.